

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

IN RE: USE OF FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS IN COURTHOUSES

MISCELLANOUS NO.: 3-20-MC-51

AMENDED STANDING ORDER REGARDING FACE COVERINGS OR MASKS

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2020, the Court entered a Standing Order in this case in accordance with the guidance of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (“the CDC”), and other local health authorities to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to protect the health and safety of everyone involved with the court operations and court proceedings. The Order required all persons seeking entry to or occupying any courthouse in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, to wear a face covering or mask (the “mask”). The order further required that the mask must always completely conceal the wearer’s nose and mouth. The Court has not terminated that Order.

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, the CDC issued new guidance for persons fully vaccinated against COVID-19 stating “fully vaccinated people may now resume normal activities without wearing a mask, and no longer have to physically distance, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including business and workplace guidelines.” Based on the CDC’s recently issued

COVID-19 guidance, it is ORDERED that the Standing Order of June 2, 2020, be Amended, in part, as follows:

Fully vaccinated individuals, defined as those individuals who have received both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, no less than two weeks prior to entry, are no longer required to wear a mask, in the public spaces of the courthouses. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated, including all visitors having business with the court, litigants, attorneys, law enforcement agents, employees of the Clerk's Office and probation, chambers staff, court security officers, vendors, couriers, contractors, and building tenants, are required to wear a mask as previously ordered by the Court. The presiding judge in any courtroom may authorize the removal of the mask, if necessary, while in the courtroom, to facilitate communication during courtroom proceedings.

It is further ORDERED that employees who have not been vaccinated must wear masks while in any courthouse in the district. Court Unit Executives may enforce this Order in their offices by requiring proof of vaccination.

It is further ORDERED that the United States Marshal, his deputies, and the court security officers shall enforce this Order, for those who intend to enter a courthouse without wearing a face covering or mask, and deny entry to those individuals who are not fully vaccinated and are not wearing a mask.

The Clerk's Office is DIRECTED to transmit a copy of this Order to the U.S. Marshals Service, the WVND Bankruptcy Court, the United States Attorney, the Federal

Public Defender, the U.S. Probation Office, the General Service Administration, and Court Security Officer Head, Kelley Moran.

DATED: June 4, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina M. Groh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gina M. Groh
Chief United States District Judge
Northern District of West Virginia